Meeting of M.Ps. to consider Maharashtra-Karnataka Border issue

99. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 576 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July 1991 and state:

(a) whether proposed meeting of the Members of Parliament from Maharashtra and Karnataka was called by Government and if so, with what results; and

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to find solution to this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) As stated in the reply under reference it was the Chief Minister, Maharashtra who proposed to arrange a meeting with the State Members of Parliament on the Maharashtra-Karnataka border issue. The Government of India has not been apprised of any further development in the matter.

(b) The Government of India continues to hold the view that the problem is to be primarily settled by the two States by mutual consultation and that there is no need for Central Government to intervene in this matter at this stage.

Driverless Goods Train

100. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a goods train travelled without a driver at 70 K.M. per hour for 150 kms between Rekhni and Peddarpet stations on the South Central Railway recently as reported in Hindustan Times dated 27th October, 1991;

(b) if so what is the outcome of the inquiry, if any, conducted by Government into the incident; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) A goods train travelled about 31 kms without the driving crew in the engine between Rechni Road and Bellmpalli stations on South Central Railway on 25-10-1991.

(b) and (c) An inquiry by a Committee of Senior Officers has been conducted and action under Discipline and Appeal Rules initiated against the staff held responsible. The Railways have launched an intensive campaign to counsel drivers on the safe handling of locomotives.

Production of Fire-wood

101. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is likely to face a firewood crisis by 2000 AD due to decreasing production tempo of fire-wood from forest areas; and

(b) if so, what are the steps being taken to meet this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) At the current rate of population increase, there is likely to be a large gap between production and demand of firewood by 2000 A.D.

(b) The Government of India have taken following steps:

(1) A massive afforestation programme is under operation under 20 Point Programme, and during